

SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE Supplemental Application



History

In July of 2000, House Bill 4849 was signed by the Governor and the Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee was established. This committee consists of 10 members; the State Fire Marshal serves as the Committee Chair and the Director of Emergency Management as Vice Chair. The State Forester and the remaining members are appointed by the Governor and consist of a county Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and six fire prevention/control personnel. All appointed personnel serve on the committee for a period of 2-3 years.

This committee recognized that South Carolina was lacking a crucial element in the protection of its citizens. The South Carolina Emergency Response Task Force (SCERTF) was developed to satisfy that deficiency and provide for state-wide urban search and rescue, also known as USAR.

In June 2003, the Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee, with the support of the South Carolina Director of Homeland Security, SLED Chief Robert Stewart secured 2.5 million dollars in federal grant funding to equip and train the SCERTF, consisting of approximately 130 Urban Search and Rescue personnel. The Task Force is managed by an Emergency Response Manager appointed by the Firefighter Mobilization Committee and reporting directly to the State Fire Marshal. The Emergency Response Manager serves as Chief of Operations and is responsible for all aspects of the Task Force, including: leadership selection, recruitment, equipment, and procedures.

The highly competitive selection process for Task Force members began on July 16, 2003 at the 2003 South Carolina State Firemen's Convention and will continue until all necessary positions are filled.

Director of Homeland Security: Chief Robert M. Stewart

Firefighter Mobilization Committee: William Galloway, Acting Chair, State Fire Marshal
Ron Osborne, Vice-Chair, Emergency Management
John Angil II, Emergency Management Association
Chief Ann Graham, Isle of Palms FD
Chief Tony Hendrick, Conway FD
Chief Phill Jolley, Pelham-Batesville FD
Miles Knight, SC Department of Forestry
Chief Bruce Kline, Fripp Island FD
Chief Tommy McDowell, City of Greenville FD
Chief Wendell Wilburn, Beaufort FD
James Bowie, designee for Bobby Colvin, SC State Firemen's Association

Task Force Manager: Raymond Wilkinson

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General Requirements

- **Must be available on short notice to mobilize within two hours and available for deployments of up to 5 days in austere conditions.**
- **Must be capable of improvising and functioning for long hours under adverse conditions.**
- **Must maintain current inoculations for Diphtheria/Tetanus (or Tetanus only if there is a contraindication to Diphtheria), Hepatitis A & B, Measles/Mumps/Rubella, and Polio.**
- **Must be capable of functioning safely at heights and/or around rubble.**
- **Must understand and adhere to safe working practices and procedures as required.**
- **Must pass a criminal background investigation.**
- **Must pass a drug screening.**
- **Must be in top physical condition.**
- **Must possess a valid South Carolina Driver License.**
- **Must be 18 years of age or older.**
- **Must be capable of working harmoniously as a member of a team**
- **Must have the support of their department chief or agency head.**

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***** APPLICATION TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY RESPONSE TASK FORCE
REQUIRES THE COMPLETION OF BOTH A STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA EMPLOYMENT
APPLICATION AND THIS SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION *****

Application Instructions

- 1. Fill out application packets completely; (state application and the supplemental application) DO NOT OMIT ANY INFORMATION. Incomplete applications will NOT be considered.**
- 2. Attach copies of all CURRENT certifications.**
- 3. Attach copies of all training certificates.**
- 4. Attach a copy of your South Carolina Drivers License.**
- 5. Supplemental Application must be signed by the applicant and the department chief or agency administrator.**
- 6. Remove the top three pages of the supplement before submitting your application.**
- 7. Applicants that are considered for further selection will be contacted within 8 weeks and scheduled for an interview.**

Return Applications to:

**Raymond J. Wilkinson
SCERTF Manager
SC Division of Fire & Life Safety
141 Monticello Trail
Columbia, SC 29203
803-896-5786**